Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lottery terminal apparatus, comprising:

a lottery input unit ~~configured to receive a play phrase from a user that comprises a plurality of words~~;

a value input device;

a controller ~~operatively coupled to said value input device, said controller~~ comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor, said controller operative with said lottery input unit and said value input device to:

receive a play phrase from a user that includes a plurality of words designated by the user,

~~said controller being programmed to~~ receive wager data in response to a wager made by the user,

~~said controller being programmed to~~ assign a prize value to each of the plurality of words in the play phrase designated by the user as a function of the complexity of the words,

~~said controller being programmed to~~ randomly generate ~~an alphabetic sample comprising~~ a random string of letters, ~~and determine a correlation between said alphabetic sample and said play phrase, and~~

correlate the random string of letters to the play phrase to determine any words in the play phrase that are formed from the random string of letters, and

~~said controller being programmed to~~ determine a prize payout value based on the correlation between ~~said alphabetic sample and at least one of said plurality of words and said prize value~~ the words in the play phrase and random string of letters.

2. **Cancelled**

3. (Previously Presented) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said lottery input unit comprises a lottery play slip reader for importing said play phrase coded onto a lottery play slip.

4. (Currently Amended) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said lottery input unit comprises a touch-screen device for receiving said play phrase as inputted by the user.

5. (Original) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said value input device is a card reader for accepting value information encoded onto a readable medium.

6. (Original) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said value input device is communicatively connected to a value acceptor and configured to accept value information communicated from said value acceptor.

7. (Previously Presented) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said memory stores a probability distribution indicative of the frequency at which each letter in said play phrase occurs to assign a prize value to said play phrase.

8. (Currently Amended) The lottery terminal apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said alphabetic sample the random string of letters includes a wildcard that may be substituted for any one of the letters in the words of said play phrase.

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9. (Original) A lottery game system comprising a plurality of lottery terminal apparatuses as defined in claim 1, said lottery terminal apparatuses being interconnected to form a network of lottery terminal apparatuses.

10 - 28. **Cancelled**

29. (New) A lottery ticket, comprising:

a section having a play phrase printed thereon that comprises a plurality of words selected by a user;

a prize value printed on said ticket that is associated with each of the plurality of words in the play phrase, wherein said prize value increases with the complexity of the words in the play phrase;

a randomly generated string of letters in a second section beneath a removable cover layer, said cover being selectively removable to reveal said random string of letters; and

wherein the user is awarded a prize payout corresponding to the prize value for the words in the play phrase that are formed completely from the randomly generated letters or that contain all of the randomly generated letters .

30. (New) The lottery ticket of claim 29, wherein said random string of letters includes a wildcard that may be substituted for any one of the letters in any of the words of the play phrase.